



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/587,616	06/13/2007	Wilfried Maier	1401A-003 (CI0151/A-US)	9956
25215 7590 09/08/2010 DOBRUSIN & THENNISCH PC 29 W LAWRENCE ST SUITE 210 PONTIAC, MI 48342			EXAMINER NGUYEN, PHONG H	
			ART UNIT 3724	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/08/2010	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<p align="center"><b>Advisory Action</b> <b>Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief</b></p>	<p><b>Application No.</b> 10/587,616</p>	<p><b>Applicant(s)</b> MAIER ET AL.</p>	
	<p><b>Examiner</b> PHONG H. NGUYEN</p>	<p><b>Art Unit</b> 3724</p>	

**--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

THE REPLY FILED 24 August 2010 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on \_\_\_\_\_. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

#### AMENDMENTS

3. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
- (a) ☒ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
- (b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
- (c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
- (d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: See Continuation Sheet. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): \_\_\_\_\_.
6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
7. ☒ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☒ will not be entered, or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
- The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
- Claim(s) allowed: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Claim(s) objected to: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Claim(s) rejected: 18,19,30,32-36,39 and 42.
- Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: 21-29,37,38,40,41,43 and 44.

#### AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing a good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

#### REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☒ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:  
See Continuation Sheet.
12. ☐ Note the attached Information *Disclosure Statement*(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
13. ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

/Phong H Nguyen/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3724  
September 7, 2010

Continuation of 3. NOTE: The expression "to assist in pilling up" changes the scope of the claims and therefore presents possible new issues that require further search and consideration since claim 42 is not obviously allowable over prior art.

Continuation of 11. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejection of claim 42 under 35 USC 112, 1st paragraph have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claim 42 under 35 USC 112, 1st paragraph has been withdrawn.

Regarding the Applicant's argument with respect to the rejection of claim 18 under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph, before the slices are piled up, the slices have a tear-drop cross-section on the convey 2. After the slices are piled up on the conveyor 7, they still have a tear-drop cross-section. Therefore, there is no change in shape of the slice before and after piling the slices.

Regarding the Applicant's argument with respect to the rejection of claim 18 under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph, claim 42 depends on claim 1. Therefore, claim 42 should further limit claim 1. However, the language of claim 42 is directed to the embodiment in Fig. 3 in which the conveyor belts displace relative together in a vertical direction. Therefore, the rejection of claim 42 is proper.

Regarding the restriction of claim 37, 38, 40, 41, 43 and 44, the original claim 37 does not have the limitation "detecting at least one characteristic of the food product block to be sliced" and that limitation was already restricted in the Restriction requirement dated 10/27/2008. Therefore, it is proper for the Examiner to withdrawn claims that are directed to the detecting means according to 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Regarding the Applicant's argument with respect to 35 USC 103 rejection, in claim 18 when the slices are piled up, they slightly change their shapes due to their weight and the pushing action. In claim 39, Wiley teaches the first conveyor belt assisting folding the slices in Fig. 3. Claim 42 is directed to a different embodiment that is not supported by claim 18.